

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 EB-07 OPIC-03

SSO-00 /076 W

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P 191828Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4038

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ALL NATO CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP

SUBJ: EARLY REACTIONS TO FIRST DECLARATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT

1. MADRID PRESS REACTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRST STATEMENT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY FAVORABLE, ALTHOUGH AN ARTICLE IN THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S ORGAN, "ARRIBA" SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE GOING TOO FAR IN POSTULATING SUBSTANTIAL CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.

2. "YA" (CATHOLIC CENTRIST INDEPENDENT) INITIALLY DECLARED ITSELF SLIGHTLY LET DOWN, EXPECTING SOMETHING MORE CONCRETE, ALTHOUGH IT DID ACKNOWLEDGE THE OBVIOUS LACK OF TIME TO FORMULATE A FULL PROGRAM. THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT MARKED OUT THE GENERAL PATH IT INTENDED TO TAKE, A DIRECTION ALREADY DEDUCED FROM THE MAKE-UP OF THE CABINET. "YA" GIVES THE NEW GOVERNMENT THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT BUT BELIEVES THAT QUICK ACTION--NOT JUST WORDS--

MUST BE TAKEN IF THE GOVERNMENT IS TO WIN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE OPPOSITION. A "TACITO" COMMENTARY IN "YA" EXPANDED ON THIS THEME: "THERE EXISTS A MAJORITY DESIRE FOR RAPID AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECISIVE TRANSITION TOWARDS DEMOCRATIC FORMS" AND, CONSEQUENTLY,

THE TASK OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS TO HARNESS THIS DESIRE BY PRODUCING, QUICKLY, A CONCRETE PROGRAM, SPECIFICALLY POLITICAL AMNESTY, A MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTE OF POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS, A NEW ELECTORAL LAW AND A STUDY TO MODIFY OR ANNUL THE CONTROVERSIAL ANTI-TERRORIST DECREE.

3. "ABC" (MONARCHIST) SAID THAT THE DECLARATION HAS FILLED PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO A PERFECTING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM, AN EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS WITHOUT UNJUSTIFIED DELAYS, BUT ALSO WITHOUT ABRUPT CHANGES--I.E., PRECISELY THE HOPED-FOR PACE OF DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE COUNTRY.

4. AN "ARRIBA" (NATIONAL MOVEMENT) COMMENTARY, INTIMATED THAT THE DECLARATION HAD GONE TOO FAR. A SUBSEQUENT EDITORIAL IN "ARRIBA" ON DECEMBER 17 CALLED THE DECLARATION A "GUIDE" AND WARNED THAT CALLS FOR "POLITICAL REFORM" MUST NOT DISTRACT THE GOVERNMENT FROM ITS REAL TASK--THAT OF ENSURING THAT ALL CITIZENS ENJOY ALL THE RIGHTS (POLITICAL AND SOCIAL) PRESENTLY ACCORDED TO THEM IN THE FUNDAMENTAL LAWS.

STABLER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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## Message Attributes

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